



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 917

**DATE:** June 23, 2010

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Providers Billing on HCFA 1500 Claim Forms

**ISSUED BY:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Wound Care

**EFFECTIVE:** July 1, 2010

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to clarify the IME reporting requirements for wound care management codes. The IME will be utilizing Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) guidelines when reviewing claims for wound care services.

There is often confusion regarding which CPT code best describes the wound debridement performed. CPT codes 11043 and 11044 describe deep debridement of the muscle and bone. A repeat debridement is not the same service as the original debridement. Typically there is no necrotic muscle or bone left after the initial service is performed. Subsequent surgical debridement of muscle or bone is usually not necessary. The debridement service selected should be based upon the service performed, not the stage of the wound. Therefore, a stage III wound would not automatically be billed with CPT code 11043 and a stage IV wound would not automatically be billed with CPT 11044. Most recurrent debridements are best described by the CPT codes 11040, 97597, or 97598. Wounds or ulcers that are close together, involve contiguous areas or are on the same extremity are considered one wound debridement service and therefore should not be reported as multiple units of service.

Iowa Medicaid coverage is limited to services that are considered medically necessary. The medical record should contain documentation that clearly demonstrates evidence of wound improvement at every visit. If the wound is not showing adequate improvement, Iowa Medicaid would expect the wound-care treatment plan to be modified. It is not reasonably or medically necessary to continue a wound treatment that is not yielding results of wound improvement.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-256-4609 or by e-mail at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us). Additional information regarding local Medicare LCD's can be found at <http://www.wpsmedicare.com/j5macpartb/policy/active/local>.